

REMARKS

Claims 8-22 are now present in this application.

Claims 13 and 14 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 has now been amended so that the “housing zone” is no longer recited. Also, proper antecedent basis should be found for the “pad sleeve” in both claims 13 and 14. As such, it is respectfully submitted that this 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection should be overcome. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 8-12 and 15-22 to contain allowable subject matter. Also, it is gratefully acknowledged that claims 13 and 14 would be allowable if the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection were overcome. Because this should now be done, all claims in the instant application should now be in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event the Examiner does not consider this application to be in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered for the purposes of Appeal. This Amendment should overcome the current grounds of rejection and therefore simplify the issues for Appeal. Moreover, this Amendment should not raise “new issues” since the Examiner’s suggestions have been followed and this Amendment merely clarifies the claims.

Application No. 10/749,404
Amendment dated August 8, 2005
After Final Office Action of May 6, 2005

Docket No.: 2450-0611P

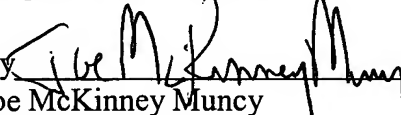
Nonetheless, it should be unnecessary to proceed to Appeal because the instant application should now be in condition for allowance.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 8, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
Joe McKinney Muncy

Registration No.: 32,334

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Rd

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicant